

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/714,373

Examiner

Tammie Heller

Applicant(s)

ABBRUSCATO, CHARLES R.

Art Unit

3766

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the amendment filed on May 5, 2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-20 and 22-27.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☐ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Attorney Jerry Miller on July 6, 2006.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 21 was cancelled.

Claim 27 was added and reads:

27. A stethoscope system comprising:

- a local stethoscope unit including a local transmitting section and a local receiving section, with the local stethoscope unit having a local transmit mode and a local receive mode;
- a remote stethoscope unit including a remote transmitting section and a remote receiving section, with the remote stethoscope unit having a remote transmit mode and a remote receive mode;
- a local chest piece assembly detachably coupled to the local transmitting section to generate an analog auscultation signal;

- a remote chest piece assembly detachably coupled to the remote transmitting section to generate an analog auscultation signal;
- wherein, the local stethoscope unit is configured to operate in the local transmit mode when the local chest piece assembly is coupled to the local transmitting section of the local stethoscope, and the remote chest piece assembly is not coupled to the remote transmitting section of the remote stethoscope;
- and wherein the remote stethoscope unit is configured to operate in the remote receive mode when the local chest piece assembly is coupled to the local transmitting section of the local stethoscope and the remote chest piece assembly is not coupled to the remote transmitting section of the remote stethoscope;
- the local transmitting section in the transmit mode being coupled to the remote receiving section and the chest piece assembly and being responsive to the analog auscultation signal to generate and transmit a digital auscultation signal to the remote receiving section;

- the remote receiving section in the receive mode being responsive to the transmitted digital auscultation signal to regenerate the analog auscultation signal; and
- a remote headset to receive the regenerated analog auscultation signal.

In claim 22, line 1, immediately after "...stethoscope system according to claim", "21" was deleted and --27-- was inserted.

In claim 23, line 1, immediately after "...stethoscope system according to claim", "21" was deleted and --27-- was inserted.

In claim 23, line 2, immediately after "...coupled to the", --local-- was inserted.

In claim 25, line 1, immediately after "...stethoscope system according to claim", "21" was deleted and --27-- was inserted.

In claim 26, line 1, immediately after "...stethoscope system according to claim", "21" was deleted and --27-- was inserted.

In claim 26, line 3, immediately after "...detecting the presence of the", --local or remote-- was inserted.

In claim 26, line 3, immediately after "...chest piece assembly", --respectively-- was inserted.

In claim 26, line 4, immediately after "...detecting the presence of the", --local or remote-- was inserted.

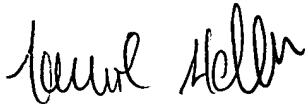
In claim 26, line 3, immediately after "...chest piece assembly", --respectively-- was inserted.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tammie Heller whose telephone number is 571-272-1986. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 7am until 3:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robert E. Pezzuto can be reached on 571-272-6996. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



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